India's Record in Non-Proliferation

323. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRASEKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some countries have praised India's record in non-proliferation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some countries have criticized India's present status of non-proliferation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (d) India shares the objective of WMD non-proliferation and has an impeccable record. Several countries have appreciated this record and regard India as a partner against WMD proliferation. They have made public statements to this effect. These include US, Russia, France, UK and Japan. President Bush conveyed his appreciation on India's strong commitment to preventing WMD proliferation in the Joint Statement of July 18, 2005; France has appreciated India's strong commitment to preventing WMD proliferation during the visit of PM in September 2005 and India and Russia have agreed to cooperate bilaterally as well as through appropriate multilateral forum to address the threat posed by proliferation. India and Japan have also agreed to work as partners against proliferation. However, some countries are still critical of India's position on the NPT. We have explained our position that we cannot sign the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state.

Increase in the number of passports issued by RPOs

324. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is steep increase in the number of passport issued in various Regional Passport Offices in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the number of passports being issued every year from the last five years;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the staff strength at the RPOs are not increased in tune with the increasing work load;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to overcome the shortage of staff; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been an increase of more than 200 per cent in the number of passports issued in various Regional Passports Offices in the country in the last twenty years.

(b) The requisite details are enclosed as Statement. (*See* below)

(c) Yes, Sir. As against the increase of 201 per cent in workload, staff strength has increased only by 42 per cent in the last twenty years.

Growth in receipt of applications and staff strength

Year	Number of applications Received for fresh Passports	% growth over 1985 in receipt of applications	Staff strength	%growth over 1985 in staff strength
1985	1232447	-	1437	-
1990	1573928	28	1445	-
1996	1987355	65	1873	30
1999	2509904	104	1938	35
2000	2588520	110	1938	35
2001	2889577	134	2076	44
2002	2713966	120	2076	44
2003	3099285	151	2065	44
2004	3515830	185	2062	44
2005	3709448	201	2046	42

(d) and (e) A proposal to create 293 additional posts in various categories in Passport Offices has been submitted to the competent authorities for approval. The number of speed Post Centres is being increased from 218 such centres at present to 1000 centres by August 2006 to receive passport applications from all over the country.

Statement

Statement showing the number of applications received, Passports issued and miscellaneous

Year	No. of applications received	No. of passports issued	No. of miscellaneous applications received	No. of miscellaneous services rendered	Revenue earned Rupees in Crores
2000	2588520	2243033	273908	257654	96.66
2001	2889577	2780738	305863	296296	114.64
2002	2713966	2666555	355318	347247	243.62
2003	3099285	2955529	341134	328935	342.80
2004	3515830	3352780	412328	395598	405.69
2005	3709448	3570730	483792	464122	427.63

Indo-US nuclear deal

325. SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. Ambassador to India has said in a press conference in Delhi that U.S. Jewish lobby is playing a very important role in getting the Indo-U.S. nuclear deal passed in U.S. Congress;

(b) whether the Ministry is in touch with American Jewish Organizations to solicit their support, whether any of the embassy official met their officer bearer; and

(c) whether some leaders of the American Jewish lobby visited India recently and met Indian leaders and officials to lobby for Israel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) The US Ambassador had, in the course of a press conference on June 30, 2006, remarked that 'the American Jewish Committee came out in support, which is a conglomeration of various Jewish lobbying groups who decided to be supportive of this specific gesture for India, which is very important because there is always the risk that somebody would say well you should